

Meeting opened at 12:32pm on 1 September 2023

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

A. Attendance

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proxy</u>
President	Sebastian Schultz	
Treasurer:	Sidratul Ahmed	
Secretary:	Natasha Tiong	
Education (Public Affairs):	John Nguyen	
Education (Academic Affairs):	Paris Enten	
Activities:	Andrew McGaw	Absent
CLA:	Che Kudagamage	Absent
Welfare:	Krista Lymbouris	
Indigenous:	John Sopar	
Environment & Social Justice:	Louis Walmsley	
Women's:	Vicky Kwong	Renee-Louise Noyaux-Riant
Queer:	Oli Shemmell	
Disabilities & Carers:	Isabella RH	
People of Colour:	Desna Ramjee	
Res Community Department:	Isla Hickey	
MUISS:	Bhumija Sakpal	
MAPS:	Vick Arjuna	Masum Bin Khalil
Clubs & Societies:	Arjun Girish	
Radio Monash:	Georgie McColm	
General Representative:	Isabelle Cummane	
General Representative:	Pranami Gamage	Rohan Kalanje
General Representative:	Sadman Arafat	Absent
General Representative:	Tippi Morgan	Megan Kong
General Representative:	Mahzarin Katrak	
Observers:	Diyara Jaswar	

Katya Spiller
Stella Robinson
Joshua Strauss

B. Acknowledgment of traditional owners of land

This MSC acknowledges and pays respect to the Bunurong peoples of the Kulin nations as the original and ongoing owners and custodians of this land. The MSA commits itself to actively fight alongside Indigenous peoples for reconciliation and justice for all Indigenous Australians.

C. Confirmation of Agenda Order

Confirmed

D. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion #1:
 This MSC confirms [Minutes 8/23](#) to be the true and accurate recording of the proceedings.
Moved: Isla Hickey **Seconded:** Arjun Girish
For: 20
Against:
Abstentions:
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Office Bearer and Divisional Reports

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Activities
CLA
Radmon
MUISS
MAPS

[C&S](#)

Motion #2:

This MSC accepts all submitted Office Bearer and Divisional Reports en bloc.

Moved: Natasha Tiong **Seconded:** Arjun Girish

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

F. MSA Financial Statement

Motion #3:

This MSC moves to accept the [MSA Financial Statement](#) for the month of July.

Moved: Mahzarin Katrak **Seconded:** Isabelle Cummane

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

G. NUS Membership

Preamble: The motion below concerns the Affiliation Fee that is payable to the National Union of Students, with an amount of \$16,500.00 exc GST. This affiliation fee must be paid to ensure that the MSA has voting rights at the 2023 NUS National Conference. Given the amount, this expenditure cannot be approved by the executive by way of a central funds application and must be passed by the MSC.

Motion #4:

This MSC approves the expenditure of \$16,500.00 for NUS Affiliation Fees.

Moved: Arjun Girish **Seconded:** Natasha Tiong

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

H. Motions relating to Office Bearer and General Representative vacancies

Preamble: Resignation from Nikkita Chandnani as the Women's OB has been received. Subsequent to this, Isabelle Cummane, the current Gen Rep Executive has been working closely with Vicky in running the department generally and have both specifically poured tremendous time and effort in the months leading up to Safe & Sexy Week.

Motion #5:

This MSC appoints Isabelle Cummane to the position of Women's Officer per section 42(5) of the Constitution, following the vacancy created by the resignation of Nikkita Chandnani pursuant to section 41(1) of the Constitution.

Moved: Renee-Louise Noyaux-Riant

Seconded: Megan Kong

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #6:

This MSC seeks nominations for the position of General Representative to the MSA Executive. Only General Representatives can be elected to and vote for this position.

Moved: Natasha Tiong

Seconded: Megan Kong

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Sebastian calls for nominations for the role of General Representative Executive.

Sebastian explained the role and that only Gen Reps can vote or nominate for the position.

Mahzarin Katrak nominated.

Megan Kong, proxying for Tippi, has mentioned her support for Mahzarin's nomination in the chat.

Sebastian detailed that in the absence of any other nominations, the election does not need to go to a ballot and the MSC is deemed to accept this nomination.

Motion #7:

This MSC approves the election of Mahzarin Katrak to the MSA Executive for 2023, pursuant to s24.1(e) of the MSA Constitution.

Moved: Natasha Tiong

Seconded: Megan Kong

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion #8:

This MSC appoints Diyara Jaswar to the position of General Representative per section 42(5) of the Constitution, following the vacancy created by the resignation of Isabelle Cummane in compliance with membership requirements under section 21 of the Constitution.

Moved: Natasha Tiong

Seconded: Megan Kong

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Sebastian congratulated Isabelle Cummane, Mahzarin Katrak and Diyara Jaswar for their appointments.

I. Motion relating to social justice

Preamble: On the 15th of August, the Australasian Union of Jewish Students, in collaboration with the Zionist Federation of Australia, and the Social Research Centre published a survey called the [Jewish University Experience Survey](#), in which 563 Jewish students from around Australia were surveyed about their experiences on campus.

The results of this survey should cause alarm to all student leaders and university institutions. It found that almost two thirds (64%) of Jewish students have experienced antisemitism on campus, over half (57%) of Jewish students actively hide their Jewish identity on campus, and almost one in five (19%) of students have avoided campus altogether for that same reason. That number rises to almost one in four (24%) amongst female respondents.

Motion #9:

This MSC commits to working with the Jewish Community on campus, including the Monash Jewish Students Society, to assist in protecting Jewish students on campus, including by reporting antisemitic groups and incidents to the University when they arise.

This MSC urges Monash University to actively engage in comprehensive consultation with the Melbourne Jewish Community to address antisemitism on campus, and commits to using its influence within the University to action this.

This MSC commits to working in consultation with Jewish students on campus to provide safe study spaces for them when they are staying home from campus en masse.

Moved: Paris Enten

Seconded: Isla Hickey

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY

J. Motion relating to the implementation of FOGO bins

Preamble: Food waste results in significant greenhouse gas emissions, which exacerbate climate change. Presently, Monash University has 70 vendors across its Australian campuses that offer food products to the 60,000 students who are enrolled. This naturally results in a large production of food waste as a by-product of consumption.

Currently, all food waste at Monash University is placed in the landfill bin alongside plastics and general rubbish, since no “green” Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) bins are available. Monash University has stated they are developing a plan to increase food waste collections, yet there are no details provided in regards to when or how these plans will be enacted. This is despite Monash University’s commitment to Net Zero Emissions by 2030, and their “pride in [their] ... efforts towards a sustainable future”. Any inaction at this time of the climate crisis is environmentally, politically and socially reprehensible.

Other Group of 8 Universities (including the University of Melbourne, La Trobe University, and Deakin University) have already implemented dedicated FOGO bins to successfully divert food scraps and compostable containers into compost, rather than landfill. This not only produces vastly less emissions but also creates nutrient-rich organic compost that can be used for garden, horticultural or agricultural purposes. A variety of commercial-scale composting facilities exist nearby that could be contracted by Monash University to process the contents of the FOGO bins, including Sacyr, the most advanced composting facility in Australia. The implementation of this “green” bin waste system has the added benefit of

increased employment in the sustainability sector at a time when unemployment rates are rising. Monash University has the potential to make this change and to truly commit to being a sustainability-leading university.

Motion #10:

This MSC demands the urgent implementation of FOGO bins at Clayton campus, within the framework of the existing waste management infrastructure. All waste should be separated correctly, and this MSC should assist in staff and student education of this new implementation.

The University's transparency and accountability is of the utmost importance to this change; in line with this, this MSC further demands that the timeline, progress, scope and location/s of a green waste management system be appropriately communicated to the MSA and student body.

Moved: Louis Walmsley **Seconded:** Mahzarin Katrak

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Louis Walmsley spoke to this motion, mentioning that himself and his committee have done tremendous advocacy on this matter but with little movement from the University. The latest update provided from the University is the potential introduction of the FOGO Bins early next year on Clayton campus. Louis expressed his gratitude to Stella Robinson, a committee member of the ESJ Department, for writing up the agenda submission. It is also confirmed that the ESJ Department will be in continued contact with the University.

K. Motion to hold a Student Referendum during the 2023 MSA Elections

Preamble:

Currently the definition of "carer" in the MSA Constitution is quite vague which has caused confusion in the past. There is a well written definition in the Federal Carer Recognition Act 2010 which is widely accepted in Australia. Changing the carer definition in the Constitution to conform with the Australian definition makes sense, especially since the definition of disability comes from legislation also.

Motion #11:

This MSC resolves to hold a student referendum during the 2023 MSA election on the proposed constitutional changes as outlined:

The current clause 64(1)(d) “carer” means a person who provides care for a person with a disability or an elderly person, is to be replaced with “carer” has the same meaning as in the *Carer Recognition Act 2010 (Cth)*.

This MSC resolves that the wording of the referendum question to be as follows:

‘The *Carer Recognition Act 2010* describes a carer as an individual who provides personal care, support and assistance to another individual who needs it because that other individual:

- a. has a disability; or
- b. has a medical condition (including a terminal or chronic illness); or
- c. has a mental illness; or
- d. is frail and aged.

It states that an individual is not a carer in respect of care, support and assistance he or she provides:

- a. under a contract of service or a contract for the provision of services; or
- b. in the course of doing voluntary work for a charitable, welfare or community organisation; or
- c. as part of the requirements of a course of education or training.

It also states an individual is not a carer merely because he or she:

- a. is the spouse, de facto partner, parent, child or other relative of an individual, or is the guardian of an individual; or
- b. lives with an individual who requires care.

Do you agree that the MSA Constitution should be amended to state that a "carer" has the same meaning as in the *Carer Recognition Act 2010*?’

This MSC appoints OGL Group to act as Returning Officer of the student referendum.

This MSC resolves that the dates, locations and hours of polling for the student referendum shall be that of the 2023 MSA Annual Elections.

This MSC directs the Returning Officer to ensure that copies of the proposed changes are made available to all students on the MSA website.

Moved: Isabella RH **Seconded:** Natasha Tiong

For: 20

Against:

Abstentions:

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Natasha clarified what the referendum would look like and what it means to hold a referendum at the same time as the MSA elections. While the finer logistics such as structuring of the question are to be confirmed with the Returning Officer, what this referendum will generally look like is an additional question re the definition of carer, in addition to the ordinary digital ballot for MSA elections. Students will be prompted to respond with either a “Yes “ or “No”. Natasha has assured that she will be in regular communication with the RO to ensure that the referendum runs smoothly concurrently with the elections and neither processes are disrupted.

L. General Business

Meeting Closed at 12:49pm